

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07324 100648Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 /066 W
-----049800 110416Z /75

R 100621Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG
SECSTATE WASHDC 1371
INS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7324

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE FROM UDORN
6 MAR 78 REPEATED FYI:

QTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 0054
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF TH LA
SUBJECT: RUMORS OF POSSIBLE INCREASED HMONG REFUGEE
INFLUX

REF: VIENTIANE 0286

1. UNHCR NORTHEAST REP, DURING VISIT TO CONSULATE MARCH 4,
TOLD US THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED RECENTLY BY THAI OFFICIALS
TO EXPECT POSSIBLE SIZEABLE INCREASE IN HMONG REFUGEE
INFLUX INTO NONG KHAI PROVINCE IN NEAR FUTURE. UNHCR REP
SAID THAT REASONS GIVEN FOR INCREASED HMONG INFLUX
IN THIS AREA, WHICH HAS BEEN AVERAGING ABOUT 150-175 PRE
MONTH FOR LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, ARE COMBINATION OF CONTINUING
PRESSURES FROM LPDR/SRV MILITARY OPERATIONS AND FOOD
SCARCITIES THAT HAVE DRIVEN HMONG POPULATION IN PHU BIA
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 07324 100648Z

AND PHU MA THAO AREAS FROM SOME OF THEIR STRONGHOLDS.
MANY OF THESE HMONG ARE NOW REPORTEDLY MAKING THEIR WAY
TO MEKONG RIVER TO SEEK REFUGE IN THAILAND.

2. UNHCR REP REPORTS THAI OFFICIALS STATE THAT, IN
KEEPING WITH CURRENT RTG EXCLUSIONARY POLICY, THEY WILL
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE HMONGS FROM ENTERING

THAI TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT HE HAS EXPRESSED
HIS STRONG CONCERN TO THAI OFFICIALS OVER THEIR ATTITUDE
AND HAS REQUESTED THAT HE BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE
OF ANY ACTION INVOLVING FORCED REPATRIATION OF SIZEABLE
NUMBERS OF HMONG.

3. COMMENT: RUMORS OF LARGE HMKG INFLUX INTO
NONG KHAI AREA HAVE BEEN HEARD PERIODICALLY DURING PAST
EIGHTEEN MONTHS. UNHCR REP BELIEVES LATEST REPORTS AS
RELAYED TO HIM BY THAI OFFICIALS MAY HAVE SOME VALIDITY.
WE WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT UNHCR REP'S INTEREST IN ISSUE
OF FORCED REPATRIATION APPEARS TO HAVE HEIGHTENED RECENTLY,
POSSIBLY AS RESULT OF UBON GOVERNOR'S REPORTED STATEMENT
LAST MONTH REGARDING INVOLUNTARY RETURN OF ESTIMATED
THREE HUNDRED LAO REFUGEES FROM THAT PROVINCE.
FINNEY UNQTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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